

Rogers (KY)	Shuster	Upton
Rogers (MI)	Simpson	Van Hollen
Rohrabacher	Skelton	Visclosky
Ros-Lehtinen	Slaughter	Walberg
Roskam	Smith (NE)	Walden (OR)
Ross	Smith (NJ)	Walsh (NY)
Roybal-Allard	Smith (TX)	Walz (MN)
Royce	Smith (WA)	Wamp
Ruppersberger	Snyder	Wasserman
Ryan (OH)	Solis	Schultz
Ryan (WI)	Souder	Waters
Salazar	Space	Watson
Sali	Spratt	Watt
Sánchez, Linda T.	Stark	Waxman
Sanchez, Loretta	Stearns	Weiner
Sarbanes	Stupak	Welch (VT)
Saxton	Sullivan	Weldon (FL)
Schakowsky	Sutton	Weller
Schiff	Tancred	Westmoreland
Schmidt	Tanner	Wexler
Schwartz	Tauscher	Whitfield (KY)
Scott (GA)	Taylor	Wilson (NM)
Scott (VA)	Terry	Wilson (OH)
Sensenbrenner	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (SC)
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Wittman (VA)
Sessions	Thornberry	Wolf
Sestak	Tiahrt	Woolsey
Shadegg	Tiberi	Wu
Shea-Porter	Tierney	Wynn
Sherman	Towns	Yarmuth
Shimkus	Tsongas	Young (AK)
Shuler	Turner	Young (FL)
	Udall (NM)	

NAYS—1

Paul

NOT VOTING—17

Abercrombie	Ferguson	Rush
Boucher	Granger	Shays
Buyer	Larson (CT)	Sires
Cubin	Miller, George	Udall (CO)
Diaz-Balart, L.	Neugebauer	Velázquez
Feeney	Rothman	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remaining in this vote. Two minutes remain.

□ 1315

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1665

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1665.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2016.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1084 and rule

XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2016.

□ 1317

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2016) to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, with Mr. HOLDEN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2016 is simple, straightforward legislation. The bill would provide statutory authorization for a conservation system which was established administratively nearly a decade ago. This is not a land management policy bill, rather, it seeks to finally grant the National Landscape Conservation System the congressional recognition that it truly deserves.

The NLCS covers approximately 26 million acres, about 10 percent of the land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, including all national scenic and historic trails, national conservation areas, national monuments, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness study areas managed by the BLM.

The individual lists which make up the National Landscape Conservation System are unique and beautiful. Canyons of the Ancients in Colorado, Craters of the Moon in Idaho, Agua Fria and Vermillion Cliffs in my home State of Arizona, these are poetic names for poetic landscapes. And Mr. Chairman, these units are truly nationally significant, ecologically, scientifically and culturally. For example, Agua Fria National Monument is remarkable for its natural splendor, with the Agua Fria River cutting through Sonoran Desert mesas, and for its unique and diverse wildlife, which includes pronghorn antelope, javelina, and the gila monster, among many others. But the monument also preserves significant and intact pueblo ruins, some with more than 100 rooms, terraced agricultural fields, which bear witness to the lives and stories of those that came long before us.

Like Agua Fria, each of the units included within the NLCS was created to conserve unique cultural and natural resources. But while the individual monument or wild and scenic river or other designations which make up the system are about conservation, creation of the NLCS itself has more to do with accomplishing the full mission of the Bureau of Land Management. From 1946 to 1996, very large, new national

monuments created under the Antiquities Act was removed from BLM management and turned over to National Park Service.

The National Landscape Conservation System was created to assure that these valued public lands remain in the BLM system, allowing the agency to manage them and fully realize the conversation aspect of its multiple-use mandate.

The NLCS has been enormously successful. Visitation to these areas is increasing as more people are learning about BLM's spectacular landscapes. From its red rock deserts to its rugged coastlines, NLCS units provide unique and world-class outdoor recreation opportunities for hikers, hunters, anglers, climbers and bird watchers, among many others. Sportsmen consider these areas essential not only for their recreational value, but also because the NLCS is critical to the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat on BLM lands.

Mr. Chairman, opponents of this bill seem to be concerned that it will somehow change or alter the current management of these lands. This is simply not true. Included in H.R. 2016 is a section that specifically states, "Nothing in this act shall be construed to enhance, diminish or modify any law or proclamation (or regulations related to such law or proclamation) under which the components of the system identified in section 3(b) were established or are managed, including but not limited to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Trails System Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act."

After almost a decade of success, it is time for Congress to finally put its stamp of approval on this system by formally authorizing NLCS. H.R. 2016 does nothing more or less than write the NLCS into statute. The bill will not alter management of a single acre of Federal, State or private land. Enactment of this legislation will not change the management of these areas, but it will change the perception; it will not upgrade their protection, but it will upgrade their stature.

The coalition of organizations supporting 2016 is as diverse as the system itself, including environmental groups, the American Hiking Society, the National Council of Churches, American Sportfishing Association, Boone and Crockett Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Wildlife Federation, and the Outdoor Industry Association. The Bush Administration has enthusiastically supported the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, what we have here are uniquely American places that should and must be recognized. The NLCS deserves congressional sanction, and we should grant it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.